

NAPERVILLE'S CAROLERS

By Ashley South

Emily Senkowsky moved to the Chicagoland area by way of New York City (by way of Texas) five years ago. Less competitive Chicago offered a way to make a decent living as a performer. When she made the move here, Emily hadn't realized that she'd become a performer, teacher, and entrepreneur within a couple years here!

While living in Chicago, Emily started teaching music, theater, and voice lessons. Most of her students were out in the Naperville area. What started off as a small traveling business turned into a permanent Naperville studio three years ago and "Sing with Emily" was officially born. She offers performance and Broadway-type singing lessons, in addition to piano and guitar.

Emily also started the Chicago Carolers, a quartet of professional singers and actors that brings cheer to Naperville and the surrounding cities each year. They sing carols of all kinds (traditional to modern favorites) in four-part harmony. Emily has the beautiful high soprano voice.

Emily's passion for singing began in fourth grade. She tells us, "My good friend was in a musical and telling me about all the fun she was having. I started bugging my mom to put me in voice lessons. After that, there was no stopping me. I was always singing and performing!" Emily joined all the musicals and plays that she could.

After high school, Emily attended New York University where she earned her Bachelor of Music and Vocal

Performance. In college, she was selected to play Carrie Pipperidge, a key support role, in Rodgers and Hammerstein's Carousel. NYU, with an incredible number of student performers on hand, also had a 39-piece orchestra in the pit. Those weeks of performing with the orchestra helped to shape Emily's own teaching style with music.

When she began teaching in Naperville, she noticed that there were numerous programs and businesses dedicated to teaching children musical instruments, but she did not see many programs for singing. With her background, training,

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Emily Senkowsky and the Chicago Carolers

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and love of different styles of singing, she found a new niche of services to provide to the community. The demand for lessons had become so great that she set up shop in Naperville on Washington Street, just north of Downtown. Sing with Emily offers private and group lessons, and also has scholarship opportunities.

Emily's love of caroling started after taking a seasonal job after college. She needed the money, applied, and has been caroling ever since. She gathered her theater friends after the seasonal job and realized that they had something awesome. A costume designer friend from Broadway helped to bring Emily's Victorian costume vision to life, including top hats for the men from England.

The quartet has over 75 songs memorized in their repertoire. In fact, you may run into Emily and her quartet strolling around Downtown Naperville this month! Chicago Carolers are also available for 30-minute carol-grams or entertainment at holiday parties.

Sing with Emily is hosting two events in her Naperville studio featuring the Chicago Carolers. For the first, the carolers will perform, have handouts for the singalong, and teach how they sing. Halfway through the event, Santa will come. Santa and carolers will then tell The Night Before Christmas story. The event is interactive and will have parts that kids can play.

Santa will be there to take pictures after the story. There will be a craft station, an opportunity to decorate cookies, and



Evening caroling

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cider. The events take place on Sunday, December 4th and Sunday, December 12th. Check the website for specific times.

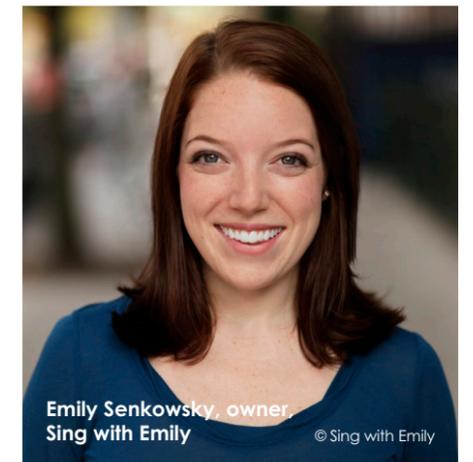
Pricing: \$55 for family of four, which includes your own table for crafts, hot chocolate, cookie and decorating materials, and time with Santa. The events are limited to 12 families.

If you miss them around town, the Chicago Carolers will be at the Warrenville tree lighting event on December 3rd from 7pm to 8pm.



Sing with Emily
736 N Washington Street
singwithemily.com

Chicago Carolers
thechicago Carolers.com



Emily Senkowsky, owner, Sing with Emily

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